

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: FILMS: ABC AND CBS INTEREST IN MAKING DOCUMENTARY
FILMS IN USSR

REF: STATE 193470

1. DEPARTMENT LEARNED AUGUST 20 FROM SOVEMB (PRESS COUNSELOR KAMENEV) THAT JAMES FLEMING'S PLANNED DOCUMENTARY ON USSR WOULD BE 3-HOUR FILM ON ALL ASPECTS OF SOVIET LIFE. SOVEMB FORWARDED FLEMING PROPOSAL TO MOSCOW FOR CONSIDERATION BY NOVOSTI. KAMENEV SAID HE EXPECTS TO RECEIVE REACTION TO PROPOSAL FROM MOSCOW SOON, BUT HE MENTIONED AUGUST VACATION PERIOD AS POSSIBLY CAUSING SOME DELAY. HE ALSO SAID FLEMING PLAN WAS SUFFICIENTLY GENERAL--NOT KEYED TO PARTICULAR EVENT--SO SOVIET OFFICIALS MIGHT NOT CONSIDER QUICK DECISION NECESSARY. KAMENEV UNDERSTANDS THAT FLEMING WILL TRAVEL TO USSR IN SECOND HALF OF SEPTEMBER TO DISCUSS FILM PROJECT IN DETAIL, BUT PRESUMABLY ONLY AFTER RECEIVING PRELIMINARY APPROVAL.

2. KAMENEV CONFIRMED THAT CBS (ANDY ROONEY) HAD PRESENTED
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PROPOSAL FOR FILM PROJECT TO SOVEMB, WHICH HE ALSO SENT TO

MOSCOW FOR CONSIDERATION BY NOVOSTI, AND ABOUT WHICH HE IS EXPECTING REPLY SOON.

3. KAMENEV EXPRESSED PLEASURE THAT MAJOR TV NETWORKS ARE INTERESTED IN SHOOTING FILMS IN USSR, AND HE SAID HE HOPES DEPARTMENT WILL FAVORABLY CONSIDER PROPOSAL BY ROMAN KARMEN TO MAKE DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT US. KAMENEV DID NOT TIE APPROVAL OF ABC AND/OR CBS FILM PROJECTS TO OUR PRIOR OR SIMULTANEOUS APPROVAL OF KARMEN FILM. ON CONTRARY, THRUST OF HIS REMARKS APPEARED TO IMPLY RECOGNITION THAT OUR APPROVAL OF KARMEN'S DOCUMENTARY WOULD DEPEND UPON SOVIET APPROVAL OF PROPOSED US PROJECTS. MAW

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